

MOSAIC MOMENTUM

August 2024



MOSAIC
FAMILY SERVICES

Getting to know Flor!

Hi there! My name is Flor Louis and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the Shelter Director at Mosaic Family Services. Joining the team in June 2023 has been an incredible honor. I'm inspired by Mosaic's daily dedication to supporting marginalized, underserved, and abused families.

My journey in advocacy began as a volunteer at a local domestic violence and sexual assault shelter in Florida in 2013. I quickly developed a deep passion for this work and its mission. This led me to many different positions including Director of Domestic Violence Programs for a Florida nonprofit and Statewide Domestic Violence Child Welfare Program Coordinator for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), covering the North Central and South Florida regions. During my tenure at DCF, I spearheaded child advocacy projects like the Child Protection Investigations (CPI) Project and Justice for Families (JFF) Project.

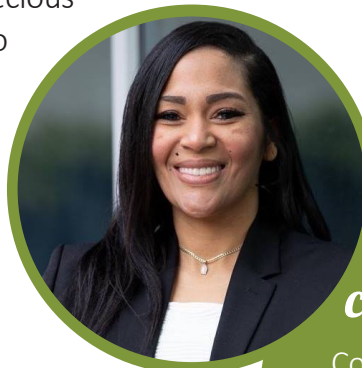
As a survivor myself, I am driven by a commitment to effecting social change and empowering women, children, and minority communities through advocacy, education, and a survivor-centered approach. I'm incredibly grateful to be part of an organization that shares my values and is dedicated to creating a culturally inclusive environment for both clients and staff.

As Shelter Director at Mosaic, I'm excited to be on the front lines, advocating for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. This is my passion, and I'm privileged to be able to make a difference in people's lives.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the shelter, completing projects that have fallen on the backburner. Your volunteer service frees up the staff to do more for survivors. So, thank you for your precious gifts of time and talent – from landscaping to clothes sorting – it all makes a difference.

Warmest Regards,

Flor Louis



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*Your company
can make an impact!*

Contact Cindy Nguyen at cindyn@mosaicfamilyservices.org, to learn more about volunteer opportunities for corporate groups.

Volunteer Spotlight: Markel Empowers Change at Mosaic House

Markel Insurance has been a loyal volunteer partner since 2018. This incredible group of volunteers is always ready to help with whatever task is needed!

This summer, Markel volunteered at Mosaic House, and hosted a Liberty in Labor training. It is such a joy to work with these incredible volunteers, like LaKeisha Forté Wells!

“Acts of service is my love language, so I’m always looking for opportunities to serve. One of the amazing things about working for Markel is that I have the opportunity to work with others who share this value. At Markel,

serving our communities is part of our DNA. I am passionate about Mosaic and its mission because a few years ago, I lost a close loved one to domestic violence. The work Mosaic does day in and day out is truly life-saving. I’m honored to partner with such an amazing organization and privileged to band together with my coworkers to strengthen and empower survivors.” Said LaKeisha, Senior Director of Compliance.

Thank you, Markel, for fostering a culture of service, and to all the wonderful volunteers who are dedicated to making an impact in the lives of survivors.



You give survivors the chance to heal

Mary is a 30-year-old Hispanic single mother of two. Originally from South America, Mary arrived in the U.S. with a trusted aunt who promised a work visa, job, and help. After escaping family violence, sexual abuse, and abandonment by her parents in South America, all Mary desired was a safer and better life for her children, just like any of us would.

The work visa never appeared, and Mary and her children ended up sharing a house with 17 other people: food, space, and toilets were severely limited. Mary and her young children were forced to work all day and night for a family connected to her aunt. The family did not pay her and took everything from her.

Mary and her children were caught in a labor trafficking situation right here in a Dallas neighborhood. She didn’t speak English nor understand her rights; and

when her own family started threatening her if she tried to leave, she sought out the police.

Thanks to Mosaic’s partnership with local law enforcement, Mary and her children landed safely at Mosaic House where she was safe and received counseling and legal services. Her children were enrolled in school, and they engaged in all the youth activities and counseling offered at Mosaic House. All these services and activities helped the family begin to process and heal from the abuse and trafficking they went through.

The day Mary moved to her own apartment through Mosaic’s transitional housing program she shared a thank you letter and drawing from a counseling session. “This drawing I did in my counselor’s workshop. She has helped me a lot with her expertise and empathy”.

To learn more about human trafficking here in Dallas contact Sonia Hagfors at soniah@mosaicsservices.org for a Liberty in Labor presentation.



Simone Biles inspires survivors on and off the mat

We have been swooning over our fellow Texan, Simone Biles, and the Women's Gymnastics team! From dominating the world stage to inspiring millions with their resilience and grace, Team USA are true champions in every sense of the word!

Simone Biles isn't just a gymnastics legend; she's a beacon of resilience and strength.

Seeing Simone compete is truly amazing; she takes on any challenge with courage and grace both on and off the mat. Although we are awestruck by Simone's brilliance and talent in the Olympics, we are even more inspired by the way she bravely advocates for herself and other survivors.

In 2016, Simone and hundreds of other gymnasts came forward about the sexual abuse they endured as children by gymnastics programs across the United States. Until that

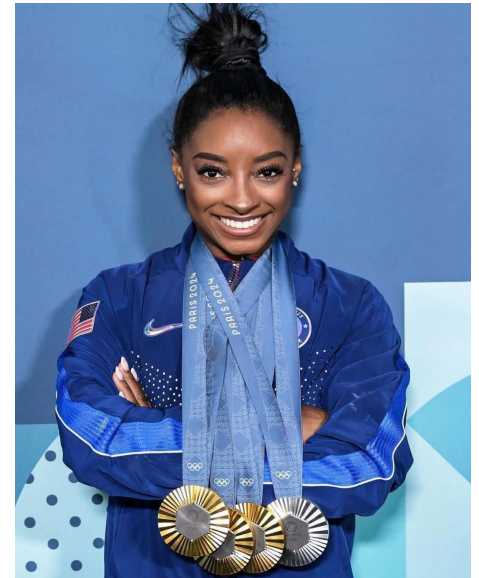
point, the abusers never faced any repercussions for their actions. In fact, many institutions meant to protect gymnasts were aware of the abuse happening but did nothing to stop it.

Survivors of abuse face overwhelming obstacles when fighting for justice and upholding their dignity. Standing up for yourself and speaking out about the injustices you've endured is terrifying and retraumatizing, and sometimes it's easier to stay quiet. It shouldn't have to be that way. Survivors shouldn't have to fight so hard for justice or accountability.

The long, tiring journey to healing and justice hasn't deterred Simone. She knew that systems needed to be held accountable to prevent abuse from happening again. She bravely stood up to those systems and valiantly demanded change.

Simone: thank you for being a powerful voice for

survivors and for your steadfast determination to hold systems accountable.



Michael and Luisa give back as a family!

In a world where compassion and service are essential, Michael and Luisa are truly making an impact. These generous, longtime donors are not only committed to supporting Mosaic but are also instilling the values of empathy and philanthropy in their sweet children!

Every year, Michael and Luisa support Mosaic's survivors by providing essential school supplies, ensuring that the kids receiving services have everything they need to thrive. They even get their own children involved by shopping together as a family and volunteering!

"We were initially introduced to Mosaic in 2018, and we quickly discovered how genuine

the Mosaic staff is and how passionate they are about the mission to create a safe haven for those in need. Mosaic is truly making a difference in so many survivors lives, and our family is so honored to support them!"

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and generosity of donors like Michael and Luisa. Their commitment not only helps survivors thrive but also sets a shining example of how families can work together to make a difference.

If you and your family would like to support survivors with everything they need to thrive, contact development@mosaicervices.org.



NORTH TEXAS
GIVING DAY

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

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Thursday, September 19th is North Texas Giving Day! Your gifts create a lasting impact for refugees and survivors.

You can get involved by giving with purpose on September 19th! Give between 6 am to midnight to be part of the movement! Out of town on September 19? No problem! Early giving begins September 1st!

Contact Gazal Valestani at gazalv@mosaicervices.org for more information on

supporting Mosaic for NTGD 2024!

Scan the QR code below to connect with Mosaic's NTGD page. Thank you for supporting refugees and survivors right here in North Texas!

